

State Representative

Robert Behning

House District 91

Legislative Survey



Dear Neighbor:

With the 2007 Legislative Session already upon us, there are many major issues for the General Assembly to examine. This will be a "long" session, which means we have to write the budget, but I believe that we will be able to address many other key issues.

One of my primary goals will be to find a solution to the property tax situation across the state. My House Republican colleagues and I will also look at giving more flexibility to local governments, energy concerns, education reform, and job creation. All of these issues are vitally important to Indiana's future.

Inside the newsletter, you will find articles on our agenda for this session, a survey for you to fill out to provide me with information on your concerns, and an article on providing block grants to improve Indiana's education system.

Sincerely,

Bob Behning

Rep. Behning on-board the C-Span School Bus during a visit to Plainfield High School. The C-Span School Bus is a mobile multi-media demonstration center and TV production unit that brings the world of public affairs to communities nationwide.



How to Contact State Rep. Robert Behning

If you have a question regarding state government, there are three ways you can contact Rep. Behning:

Mail

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200 W. Washington
Room 401
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Telephone

(317) 232-9600

E-mail

H91@in.gov

Fill Out This Survey Online!

Visit my website at
www.in.gov/h91
to complete this survey and send me additional comments.

12 Point Plan for Indiana's Progress

Over the summer, House Republicans made a series of pledges to promote innovative legislation to continue to move Indiana forward. Below is a brief list of the proposals with a short description:

1. **Permanently Eliminate Taxpayer Funded Lifetime Healthcare Benefits** for House Members through legislation to be introduced in the 2007 legislative session. Last year, Republican Leader Brian Bosma eliminated the benefit administratively.
2. **Balance the 2008-09 State Budget** with no general tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers to artificially balance Indiana's books.
3. **Eliminate Partisan Gerrymandering** of Indiana's legislative and congressional districts for political gain by the party in control of the Indiana House at the end of each decade.
4. **Provide for Indiana's Energy Needs** with a focus on 'Hoosier Homegrown Energy' by making bio-diesel and ethanol more available to consumers, thus reducing the reliance on imported oil.
5. **Reform the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)** by providing a 30-minute guarantee at the BMV and other measures to improve service and efficiency.
6. **Honor and Support Hoosier Veterans and Active Military** by increasing financial assistance to those who are serving today and their families, and honoring veterans for their service.
7. **Empower Indiana Schools** by providing more resources, more flexibility and more incentives for schools, teachers, parents, and students.
8. **Crack Down on Illegal Immigration** by broadening State Police powers to enforce federal immigration laws and ensuring that state benefits are awarded only to legal Indiana residents.
9. **Expand our Job Creation Success** and promote job growth in the small business sector where 75% of Hoosier jobs are created.



Rep. Behning and Rep. Noe discuss ways to improve education for Hoosier children.

Block Grants for Education

Many sweeping education reforms, such as full day kindergarten, have been discussed in Indiana over the last decade. **In prior years, Indiana had no money to pay for these programs; however, because of the tight budget crafted by House Republicans, Indiana now has a budget surplus and the ability to provide more education opportunities.** Governor Daniels has placed the implementation of full day kindergarten as one of his legislative priorities this year.

While Indiana has a surplus, it does not have enough money to implement full day kindergarten for every student. **House Republicans are proposing to provide grants to schools so they can have a choice to offer full day kindergarten during a phase-in period or to fund a variety of other education programs.**

The caucus believes in providing local school corporations with block grants so that they may determine how best to spend the money. House Republicans are proposing that block grants be used to fund either optional full day kindergarten, alternative education, summer school programs, remediation, reading improvement, expansion of gifted and talented programs, professional development, technology, or textbooks. **Local school boards understand the needs of the community more than someone sitting at a desk in Indianapolis.** If a school believes that funding remediation programs is more important to the local area than full day kindergarten, they should be able to use the money to fund those programs. Local schools should determine how the money would best serve their needs.

House Republicans will continue to provide the resources necessary for a quality education and allow local school corporations to choose how they will meet the education needs of their communities. House Republicans will work with Governor Daniels and other legislators to create a program that is affordable, meets the needs of local schools, and benefits Hoosier children.

10. **Get Tough on Crime** by requiring violent felons to serve at least 85% of their sentence, protecting children from Internet sexual predators, requiring federal background checks on caregivers of the elderly, and protecting all Hoosiers from identity theft, violent offenders, and meth dealers.

11. **Help Access Affordable Healthcare** with common sense market based solutions like providing tax credits for Worksite Health Programs, a Health Insurance Premium Deduction, and allowing coverage by a parent's policy until the age of 24.

12. **Let Hoosiers Speak on Traditional Marriage** by voting in the 115th General Assembly on SJR7 – the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman – and placing SJR7 on a referendum ballot for Indiana voters to consider in November of 2008.

Visit my website at www.in.gov/h91 to complete this survey and send me additional comments.

The presence of an issue in this survey does not necessarily indicate Rep. Behning's support for the issue.

Voter 2 Gender (optional) ☐ Male ☐ Female

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Sign Up to receive the House Minority Caucus newsletter via e-mail.

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Representative Behning speaks with a parent after hearing from Mooresville PEAK students present their alternative energy project.

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